years. Different communities, tribes and religions of the hill and valley with common interests and similarities have lived and coexisted peacefully for hundreds of years. It was the last princely State in India to be brought under the British colonial rule in 1891.

After independence, when each princely State took their own decision to join the Indian Union or Pakistan, Manipur became a part of India in 1949. It was the last princely State to merge with the Indian Union. In the Merger Agreement, it is clearly mentioned that the Indian Government would look after the interests of Manipur and not preside over its disintegration. In this regard, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, when she was Prime Minister had written to the Manipur Territorial Congress Committee:

> "You may rest assured that while India's security as a whole will continue to be our paramount concern, the interests of Manipur will not be subordinated to the interests of any other parts of this country."

However, as a fallout of the ongoing peace talks between the Government of India and a Naga underground outfit NSCN (IM), there is widespread public fear and apprehension in the minds of the people of Manipur that it would result in the disintegration of Manipur.

The matter has become so serious that over five lakh people out of a total population of 20 lakhs in Manipur from all sections of society, communities, political parties both from the hills and plains participated in a rally in Imphal on 4/8/97 to preserve the territorial integrity of Manipur. This has been reported widely in the national papers/Press on 5/8/97.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Singh, you are not supposed to read a statement. You wanted to raise certain issues and I allowed you. Please be brief and say what you want to say.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : A total *bandh* has also been called in Manipur by the various student organisations on 6/8/97, that is today, and it has been reported that a rally is likely to be held very soon in Delhi to highlight the issue of preserving the territorial integrity of Manipur.

Sir, I would like to mention here that all MLAs from the hills as well as plains who are the representatives of the people of Manipur have resolved unanimously in the Legislative Assembly time and again about their desire to preserve the territorial integrity of Manipur and about peaceful co-existence of all the people of the State.

Further division or fragmentation of already small States of North Eastern region would not be desireable. It may be counter-productive. There will be no end. It is also proved that the appeasement policy pursued in the past could not bring any lasting solution. Rather it encouraged others to pick up arms.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, It may also be noted here that the people of Manipur did not merge with the Indian Union for its own territorial fragmentation. Though the peace talks between the Government of India and underground outfits are as such welcome, it is necessary to emphasise here that the territorial integrity of Manipur cannot and should not be disturbed in the name of peace talks. In fact, present atmosphere in Manipur is so tense that any rumour may lead to social turmoil and bloodshed which may be beyond the control of the security forces and the Administration. The apprehension has been further aggravated by the recent claim by the Home Secretary, NSCN (IM) for inclusion of Karbi Anglong in Assam and the hill areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur into Nagaland creating serious tension among the political leaders and the people of Manipur as to whether the solution of the Naga problem would create dismemburment of Manipur.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaoba Singh, that is good enough.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, therefore, it is necessary for the hon. Prime Minister to assure the people of Manipur through this august House that "the existing territorial integrity of the State of Manipur will not be disturbed under any circumstances' either while negotiating with any underground outfit or any other organisation.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement on this issue.

12.08 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to look into grievances of Medical Students who have graduated from Russia

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Sir, students from various parts of India go to Russia for medical studies. T.V.R. Academy of Russia is a recognised Institution from the Medical Council of Indian. T.V.R. Academy and Medical council of India had agreed that medical graduates, who have complete 5 years' medical course in Russia can start medical practice after an internship of one year. This continued upto 1996. Now, since January 1997, Medical council of India is not giving permission for internship, which has created problems for students, who are coming

[Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar]

after completing 5 years' medical course. Now, period for their training has been increased by one year. In this way now those medical students would be able to start their practice after eight years which was earlier seven years whereas medical graduates from India can start practice after 5 and a half years. This is an injustice to those medical graduate students.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the central government to direct the Medical council of India to permit one year's intership to those students, who have completed medical course of five years as was being allowed earlier.

(ii) Need to provide civic amenities in Railway colonies in Delhi

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Sir, the basic civic amenities in the Railway Housing colonies in Delhi are not adequate. There are no proper roads, sever system and arrangements for electricity and drinking water in these railway colonies. Due to lack of civic ameneties the allottees of these railway colonies are facing great difficulties. There houses are in a dilapidated condition and no attention is being paid towards their maintenance. There is uncleanliness in there railway colonies which is adversely affecting the health of residents. As a result of it, a number of residents of colonies had died of dengu epidemic.

I, therefore, request the government to take immediate steps to provide basic civic amenities like sewer system, electricity, roads, drinking water and for scavenging etc in railway colonies of Delhi. A monitoring committee should also be constituted for maintenance of these houses and adequate funds may be provided on priority basis for undertaking repairs of those house which are in dilapidated condition.

(iii) Need to clear the proposal of State Government of Orissa for Augmenting the supply of Water to the Water Scarcity areas of Sonepur District

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, Dhenkanal District, Angul District and Birmaharajpur Subdivisions of Sonepur District in Orissa are chronically water scarcity areas even in normal times. The problem gets worse during the droughts, floods and cyclones which have been the constant companions for the last three and a half decades.

In order to augment the water supply and to mitigate the water scarcity, the Regional Piped Water Supply Scheme has been prepared by the Government of Orissa, Housing and Urban Development Department, for the areas of Talchar, Angul, Mehramundli, including 161 villages in the polluted Brahmani river basin; Dhenkanal the District Headquarters town, and Bhuban NAC; covering a population of 2.5 lakh at an estimated cost of Rs. 139.30 crore. The State Government have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Government of India, in June, 1995 and modified projects after discussion with Japanese OECF Fact-finding Mission on 23rd February, 1996.

The Government of Orissa have also submitted proposals for augmenting the water supply to Kamakhyanagar, Angul and Athmallitk NAC under Augmented Urban Water Supply Scheme in the Dhenkanal and Angul Districts respectively costing Rs. 2.37 crore, Rs. 1.93 crore and Rs. 1.93 crore respectively.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to take up and complete the works expeditiously and urgently to mitigate the sufferings of a sugment of long suffering population. Necessary fund allocation may be made for implementing those drinking water projects during the current financial year.

(iv) Need to look into irregularities in implementation of Employment Assurance and Literacy schemes in Jahanabad constituency, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : The literacy Mission and Labour Assurance Employment Scheme run by the Union Government in the Jahanabad Parliamentary constituency in Bihar is not being implemented properly. On the propagation and other activities of Literacy more than two crores of rupees have been spent but in reality desired results have not been achieved. In my area, militent organisation is fast spreading. Therefore, in this area development works should be understaken on war-footing. But the funds sent by the Union Government still is not being used properly.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to order an enquiry regarding the expenditure incurred in both of these schemes by Vigilance Department and stern measures be taken to implement these schemes properly.

(v) Need to connect Satna city in Madhya Pradesh by Air

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Satna district in my Parliamentary constituency has now become a big industrial centre. This area is the largest producer of cement in Asia. Apart from cement, lime, ochre (greu) and 'ramraj' are exported in a large